



MLPA Public Comments
The California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth St. , Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn.: Melissa Miller-Henson

The Cambria Fishing Club has fished the central coast of California for the last three decades. Our membership is committed to the preservation of this rich and varied resource. The sporting tradition we embrace includes responsible stewardship to protect these resources for future generations. It is in that tradition that we voice our continued support for the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA).

Beach launching skiffs to fish local waters and view marine life has provided Club members with a wealth of experience. With the advent of the nearshore fishery, our group found common ground in the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) with its stated goal of 'sustainable' fisheries. We became active participants as the state developed a Nearshore Fishery Management Plan (NFMP). Management strategies for the nearshore were developed with statewide stakeholder participation. The NFMP was adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission and put into law.

The NFMP clearly states that "a combination of a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) and limits on total fishing mortality are proposed to achieve the principle management goals". Further, the NFMP "uses MPA's to ensure that the MLMA's objectives for protection of habitat and ecosystem integrity as well as sustainable fisheries are met".

The scientific community has issued several consensus statements during these years, declaring that "reserves are the best way to protect resident species and provide heritage protection to important habitats". We clearly have several of these along the central coast of California. The Pew Fellows recently issued a statement that "no less than 10% and as much as 50% of each marine ecosystem ...should be protected as no-take zones". Along with these marine scientists, we are persuaded that " existing scientific information justifies the immediate application of fully protected marine reserves as a management tool". The addition of State Marine Parks and Marine Conservation areas extend the tools available to us.



The 1999 MLPA was passed into law as an unfunded mandate. The funding is now being secured. Together with the MLMA and the NFMP, California is armed with a legislative suite that encapsulates 'state of the art' protection for our coast and our coastal community heritage.

Time after time, when presented with an opportunity to preserve wildness on the coast, our communities have chosen to do so. It is a part of our heritage. In Cambria, the purchase of East-West Ranch retired from development a large parcel of ranchland in the heart of town to become permanent open space. The community of Morro Bay has rallied in support of protecting thousands of acres draining into the Morro Bay Estuary. The bluffs north of Cayucos are now preserved as open space thanks to local support. This heritage should extend into one of our most treasured resources: the ocean we all share.

The law mandates we act. The best available science describes how to proceed. Our communities have acted consistently to preserve the heritage of our coast. Please see the successful implementation of the Marine Life Protection Initiative through to completion. Future members of the Cambria, or any, fishing club are relying on your foresight and sacrifice.

Respectfully,

Jim Webb
President
Cambria Fishing Club